

Appl. No. 09/842,458
Proposed Amendment for Discussion Only

Proposed Amendments to the Claims:

Applicant proposes to replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A hemodialysis port comprising:

a housing defining a plurality of interconnected chambers, each said chamber having a bottom portion and sidewall portions and integrated passageway providing interconnection of said chambers;

a septum attached to said side wall portions of each said chamber enclosing said chamber; and

a spring mechanism disposed between said sidewalls and said septum and applying an inward force on said septum.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (original) A port as claimed in claim 1, wherein said spring mechanism having sufficient force to close an opening in said septum caused by a needle or other medical instrument.

Claim 4 (original) A port as claimed in claim 1, said bottom portion further comprising a titanium insert covering at least a portion of said bottom portion of said port.

Claim 5 (original) A port as claimed in claim 1, wherein said housing comprising a flexible material having a flexibility for a particular patient's anatomical structure.

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Claim 6 (original) A port as claimed in claim 1, wherein said septum comprising silicon rubber.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A port as claimed in claim 1, wherein said chambers are connected together to a manifold to provide a single inlet/outlet to and from said ~~ports~~ chambers.

Claim 8 (withdrawn) A method for performing hemodialysis, comprising the steps of:
inserting at least one multi-port device under the skin of a patient;
inserting a needle and sheath through said skin and into one of said ports of said multi-port device;
removing said needle from within said sheath, leaving said sheath in said port; and
inserting a cannula and obturator into said sheath and drawing from said cannula blood from within said port.

Claim 9 (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 8, said method further comprising the step of removing said cannula and obturator and said sheath from said port and said skin.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) A hemodialysis method comprising the steps of:
inserting a multi-port device under the skin of a patient;
inserting a hollow needle into one of the ports of said multi-port device through the skin of said patient;
inserting a guidewire through said needle and into said port;
removing said needle from said port and said patient; and
inserting an introducer over said guidewire and into said port.